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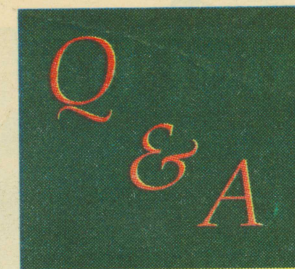
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TUESDAY

DECEMBER 7, 1999



What will you be doing on the eve of the millennium?

Page 3

The Student Newspaper of The University of Texas-Pan American

UTPA seeks to recover stipend paid to Henkel

Miguel Liscano
The Pan American

Heather Henkel, former president of the Student Government Association (SGA), has been asked to pay the university a portion of the stipend she received for the fall semester following her resignation.

Henkel, who resigned from the presidency on November 19, was paid in advance a

stipend of \$861.16 for her work as president of the SGA from September 1 to December 31. Henkel resigned six weeks before the end of her pay period so the university is asking her to return the \$323.10 in pay she received for



HENKEL

these six weeks.

"The university does require she pay it back because that money comes from our student service fees," said Karen Kramer, advisor to the SGA.

The president and vice president of the SGA are the only members of SGA to get paid a stipend which comes out of our student service fees. If she would have finished her term, Henkel would have collected \$1,940.

According to Kramer, Henkel took home \$1,184.26 in stipend money for her work as the SGA president from April 15 to May 31 and September 1 to December 31. She was not paid for the summer. Henkel will be given 60 days to pay \$323.10 of the \$861.16 that she was paid for the fall semester. Henkel was informed of her debt to the university through a written letter and e-mail from Kramer. Henkel was not available for comment.

Admission's office urges UTPA students to register for classes

Miguel Liscano
The Pan American

UTPA Office of Admissions would like to remind students to register for the spring term before December 17.

According to David Zuniga, director of admissions and records, registration numbers have been fluctuating, and he says the office of admissions is giving students every opportunity to enroll on time by extending pay periods and registration periods.

"We're doing everything possible to make it easy for them to register," said Zuniga. "As you know we are not going to have arena (registration) so students can take advantage of the technology we have."

There will be no arena registration, but another registration period has been added from January 6 to 11. The first registration period ends on December 17, and students have until January 4 to pay tuition.

If students do not pay tuition by January 4, their classes will be dropped, but they can pick them back up again on January 6 if the classes are available.

Some computer labs in the Academic Services Building will be available for registration during the semester break.

Admissions will mail five reminder letters to students informing them of the registration deadlines and tuition deadlines, and, according to Zuniga, professors have been asked to remind students of registration and the cancellation of arena registration.

Zuniga says the payment deadline that was previously some time in December has been



—Angie Reyes/The Pan American

Mark Lacy, dressed as a Harley-riding Santa, is accompanied by two of Santa's helpers, Mary Saenz and Alinor Stephens, Friday night during the 7th annual Night of Lights. For more coverage on the Night of Lights, see page 6.

AAP workshops highlight teaching alternative

H. Farwa Naqvi
The Pan American

A workshop on Saturday provided information on the Accelerated Alternative Program for educator preparation and certification. David Gonzalez, teacher certification evaluator for the AAP at UTPA, spoke to those interested in teaching.

The AAP offers graduates an alternative to the conventional four-year teacher certification program. Initially, the program

focused on older students who had already had a career but decided to pursue teaching.

"Now we have more of a younger student (involvement) ... because if they can't find jobs they can always go this route," said Gonzalez.

"I basically gave a picture of what our program does to meet the needs of teacher shortages," said Gonzalez of the workshop.

Workshops are held sporadically 3 or 4

CAMP finds new home in renovated Lamar West Building

Yvette Solis
The Pan American

The College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), moved from the second floor of the Emilia Schunior Hall building to the Lamar West Building near the corner of Schunior and Sugar Road Friday.

Last June the CAMP was approved for a five year grant and was in residence at Emilia Hall while renovations at the Lamar West Building were finished.

"We were originally assigned to the Lamar West building but took residence at Emilia Hall to wait for the renovations to be finished. We held an open house for students and faculty so that they would know where we are now located," said Marilyn Hagerty, CAMP counselor.

CAMP is a migrant education program designed to help entering freshmen with special seasonal worker needs.

To be eligible to participate in CAMP, students must have worked a minimum of 75 days of farmwork, must have been eligible to participate in a migrant education program under Chapter I-Migrant and also participated in a JTPA section 402 program.

UTPA's College Assistance Migrant Program is funded by the United States Department of Education and offers services during a migrant student's first year of college, including help in applying for financial aid, academic advisement, peer tutoring and counseling.

CAMP also offers follow-up services to migrant students for the length of their college education. UTPA's CAMP offers its services to the Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy counties.



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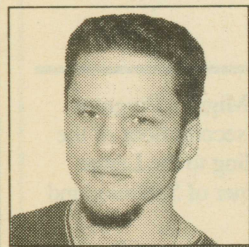
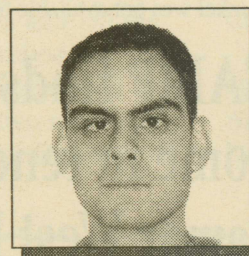
December 7, 1999

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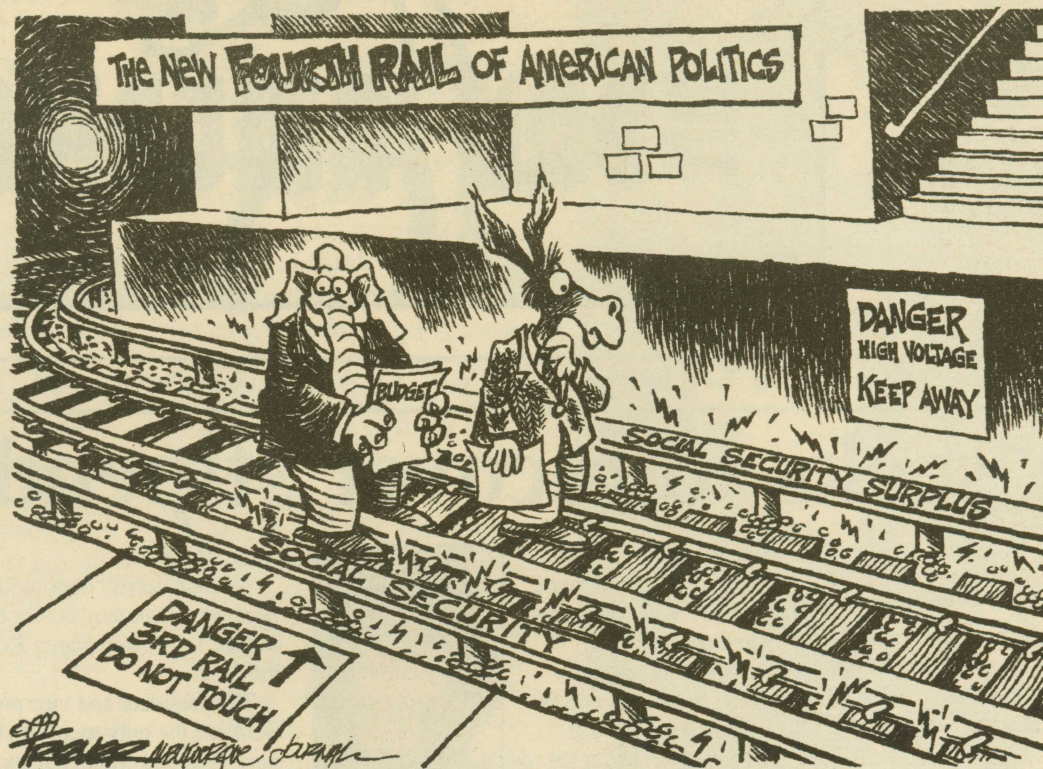
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COMMENTARY



My 2 Cents

Editor says goodbye, gives his final '2 Cents'

Joe Leal
The Pan American

Whew, what a ride. My time as editor has run its course. Student teaching awaits in the spring.

All I wanted to do when I came to *The Pan American* was write about sports. I would have never dreamed it would come to this.

I set out to make this semester's newspaper UTPA oriented in content and I feel I've accomplished that to a degree.

There are many people to thank, so bear with me.

First, I thank the students and organizations of UTPA. This publication is here only because of our tuition and fees. Thanks for the feedback and suggestions on and off campus.

An emphatic thank you goes out to my reporters for sticking with me this semester. I appreciate my section editors for putting aside their studies to put together this publication. I also have to thank my production editor for slowing my aging process.

A special thanks to our advisor Bob Rollins for believing in my ability to take on this challenge. UTPA journalism students are lucky to have such a knowledgeable and honest professor in Rollins. They don't make them like him anymore.

I thank him most for the thick skin I have acquired in my two years here.

To Dr. Salma Ghanem and her inspiration when I thought twice about taking this job. 'Hey Dr. Ghanem it was cold feet.'

Another 'thanks' goes out to Jackie Nirenberg for putting up with myself and others at the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association competition last spring.

Thanks to Jaime Mancha and his best-seller *Pagination for Dummies*. I never did figure out the ending Jaime.

Thanks to our secretary Juanita Sanchez for keeping our office organized and showing me how to fill out a timecard.

A special thanks to my fellow journalism students

for their input and participation in this semester's paper.

I made several meaningful contacts in my time as sports editor.

Jim Mckone and Georgia Kovich were instrumental in my ability to bring meaningful sports coverage to UTPA athletics. I thank them for all the photos, statistics and scoops they gave me.

Thanks to all the coaches I came into contact with. Reggie Treadaway, Mike Brown, Kathy Halligan, Rod Lee, John Garcia, Dana Colligan-Gutierrez and David Thorn made writing sports articles a joy.

A special thanks goes out to the athletes I had the privilege of covering. For fear of leaving anyone out, I won't name any names, but you know who you are.

I can't forget those in the school of education.

Queta Gonzalez, thanks for inspiring me to take on teaching. It was a pleasure being in your class.

I also want to thank Alfredo Salinas and Dr. Velma Menchaca for

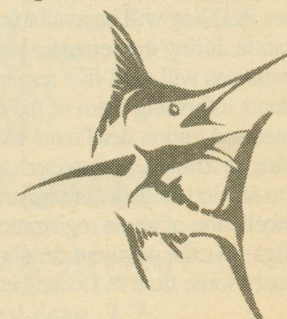
adjusting to my duties at the newspaper.

An additional thanks goes out to my fellow students in my current block of education courses for the support and input.

Lastly, I must show my appreciation for the support my parents and the rest of my family gave me. They are the only people that had each issue hand delivered to them. Don't worry, LVU, I didn't forget you either.

I hope I have laid a foundation to build on here. There is still a lot of work, but I believe our new editor is up to task.

Before I finish up here, I just want to wish all of my fellow students the best of luck on their upcoming finals and may they enjoy a prosperous holiday season.



Q&A

What will you be doing on the eve of the millennium?

— Rachel Luna



Emilio Dominguez
Junior
English

I'll probably be at church or at home waiting to see what Y2K brings. I usually attend a midnight vigil. The most important thing to me is my faith and my family.

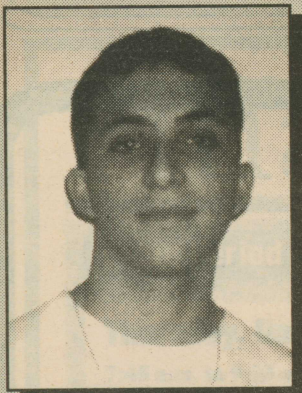
Elvia Perez
Junior
Education

If there's a party, I'm there. I don't have any definite plans, but if I hear that a good group is playing nearby and I want to go, I will. I like dancing and hanging out with my friends.



Jaime Balli
Freshman
Biology

Do the count down with my parents and hope the world doesn't explode. I mean this whole business with the Y2K is kind of unpredictable. I just want to chill at home and wait to see what happens.



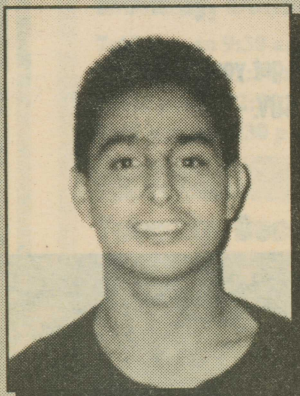
Martha Salinas
Sophomore
Education

It is very important to spend it with my family and other relatives. As a mom, I would like to share the eve of the new millennium with my child.



Rudy Leos
Sophomore
Engineering

I would like to go to New York. It's just the spot to be at. It sounds scary because it will be the year 2000, but it also sounds very exciting.



Campus Briefs

Henry selected as editor for 'The Pan American' in 2000

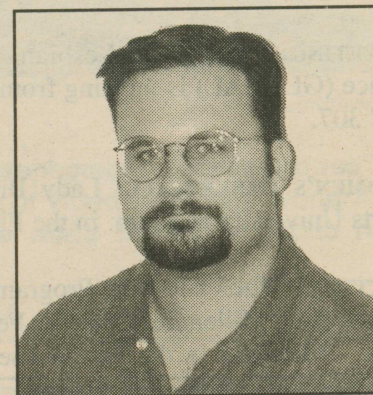
Staff Report

Ryan R. Henry, a freshman communication student, was selected last week to serve as editor of *The Pan American* for the 2000 Spring semester by the Student Publications Committee.

Henry had previously served as production editor for *The Pan American* during the 1999 fall semester.

"I think being editor for *The Pan American* will be a challenge," said Henry. "And I look forward to continuing to work with the staff."

Henry assumes responsibility of the



Ryan R. Henry

newspaper in January. Currently he is accepting applications for staff positions at COAS 170. Interested individuals are encouraged to apply.

UTPA choirs get into the holiday spirit

Daniel Garcia Ordaz The Pan American

The UTPA Department of Music presented a Holiday Concert Friday at the Fine Arts Recital Hall.

The concert featured the Men's and Women's Chorus performing in front of a standing-room only crowd.

The choruses took turns sharing the stage while singing songs and several musical numbers from the 18th century.

To mark the holiday spirit, all the singers surrounded the audience holding lit candles as they sang in the dark.

Several renditions of 'Gloria' by Schubert and old yuletide favorites such as 'Silver Bells,' 'Let It Snow,' and 'White Christmas' were received well by the crowd.

During 'Medieval Gloria' and 'African Noel,' percussionists from Dr. Dean Canty's classes accompanied the choruses, which



—Daniel Garcia Ordaz/The Pan American

The choirs held a recital Friday night that featured holiday music and favorite Christmas songs.

added to the soulful sounds of the songs.

The concert ended with a medley by both choruses of 'It's The Most Wonderful Time of The Year' and 'The Christmas Song.'

The choruses are conducted by Dr. Vivian Munn, who said the singers practice 90 minutes a week outside of class time. Dr. Christopher Munn accompanied the choir as pianist.

DECEMBER

7 CLINIC: Student Health Services is holding a skin care clinic with special pricing for students, faculty and staff from 8:30 - 9 a.m. in Emilia Hall.

7 MEETING: The South Texas Independent Film Society (STIFS) is meeting from noon - 1 p.m. in the TV Studio green room.

7 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: Lady Broncs vs. UT-San Antonio at 7 p.m. in the Fieldhouse.

7 CONCERT: The Music Department is presenting a Valley Symphony & Chorale Concert at 8 p.m. in the Virgen de San Juan Shrine.

8 ACTIVITY: The Music Department presents a UTPA freshmen mariachi concert at 7 p.m. in the Media Theatre.

9 MEETING: The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance (GLOBAL) is meeting from noon - 1 p.m. in UC 307.

9 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: Lady Broncs vs. Oral Roberts University at 7 p.m. in the Fieldhouse.

10 ACTIVITY: The University Program Board (UPB) presents the "Millennium Music Festival from 8 p.m. - Midnight in the Fieldhouse. Students are

encouraged to dress up as their favorite historical era. There will be a costume contest, and contest for best booth.

12 ACTIVITY: ACTUE will be hosting a cultural event from 1 - 5 p.m. at the Hidalgo County Historical Museum. ACTUE will be selling tamales (\$3.25/dozen), performing in a "pastorela" with members of the Folkloric Dance Company.

14 MEETING: The Political Science Association is meeting from noon - 1 p.m. in SBSC 109.

20 MEN'S BASKETBALL: Broncs vs. Mary-Hardin-Baylor at 7:30 p.m. in the Fieldhouse.

22 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: Lady Broncs vs. Southwest Texas State at 1 p.m. in the Fieldhouse.

22 MEN'S BASKETBALL: Broncs vs. Pacific at 7:30 p.m. in the Fieldhouse.

29 MEN'S BASKETBALL: Broncs vs. Northern Iowa at 7:30 p.m. in the Fieldhouse.

30 MEN'S BASKETBALL: Broncs vs. St. Edwards at 7:30 p.m. in the Fieldhouse.

JANUARY

3 MEN'S BASKETBALL: Broncs vs. Rice at 7:30 p.m. in the Fieldhouse.

5 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: Lady Broncs vs. St. Mary's (San Antonio) at 7 p.m. in the Fieldhouse.

10 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: Lady Broncs vs. Wyoming University at 5 p.m. in the Fieldhouse.

10 MEN'S BASKETBALL: Broncs vs. Southwestern Louisiana at 7:30 p.m. in the Fieldhouse.

13 MEN'S BASKETBALL: Broncs vs. St. Mary's (San Antonio) at 7:30 p.m. in the Fieldhouse.

20 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: Lady Broncs vs. Southwestern Louisiana at 7 p.m. in the Fieldhouse.

FOR INFORMATION

Art Department 381-2655
Athletic Department 381-2221
Folkloric Dance 381-2230
Intramural office 381-3673
Music Department 381-3471
UTPA Theatre 381-3581

If your club or organization has an upcoming campus activity, *The Pan American* would like to post it in this calendar. Send it to COAS 170 by noon Thursday at least one week in advance.

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Registration continued from page 1

extended to January 4 for the first registration period and January 12 for the second. He says this extension should leave little excuse for not paying tuition on time because students who are short of cash can pay in different ways.

The Office of Admissions has worked with UTPA Business Affairs to get emergency loans to anyone who needs one, and students can take advantage of the university's installment plan or apply for financial aid.

The university will also set up three extra payment and collection offices in

the University Theatre Box Office, in the Fieldhouse Box Office, and the library to make it easier for students to pay tuition.

"We're giving the students every possible advantage of registering on time," said Zuniga. "We've done all we can do."

Zuniga encourages students to register now because, once registered, they can add or drop courses as they please. He would also like to remind students that an added registration period does not mean classes are guaranteed to be available.

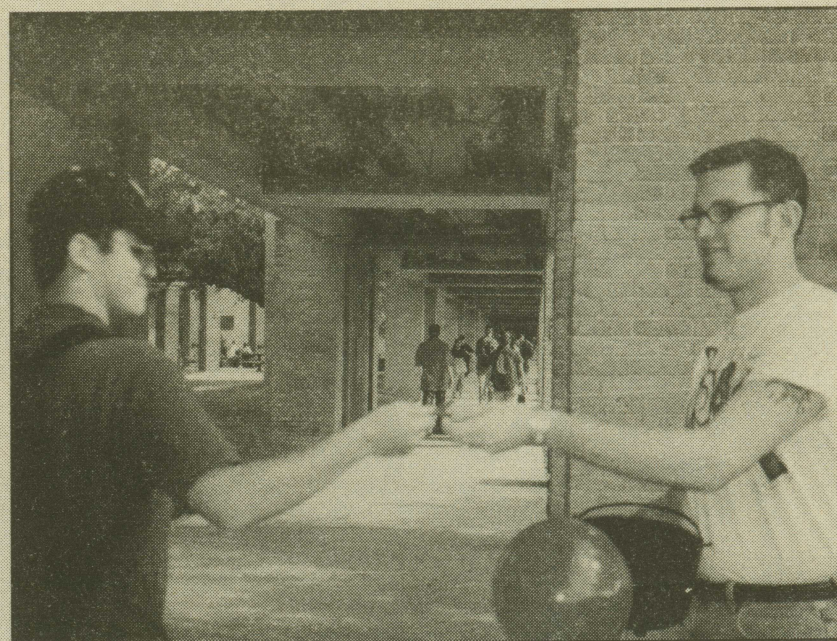
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We're giving the students every possible advantage of registering on time. We've done all we can do.

—David Zuniga,
director of admissions and record

”

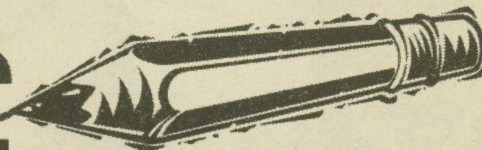
UTPA observes World AIDS Day



—Daniel Garcia Ordaz/The Pan American

GLOBAL member Ryan Martin, sophomore, passes out red ribbons Wednesday in observance of World AIDS Day. World AIDS Day was celebrated around the world December 1st to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS.

Final Exam Schedule



Exam Period

Meeting Time

Exam Period

Meeting Time

Thursday, December 9

7:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. *English 1301
9:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. *English 1301
5 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. All evening English 1301 classes

*Specific English 1301 Day Schedule to be announced by instructor.

Friday, December 10

8:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Math 1300 classes
10:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Math 1334 classes
1 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. All Math 1340 classes

Monday, December 13

7:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. MWF (7:45-8:35)
9:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. MWF (11:45-12:35)
12:45 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. TR (9:10-10:25)
2:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. TR (2:35-3:50)

Tuesday, December 14

7:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. TR (7:45-9)
9:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. MWF (8:45-9:35)
12:45 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. MWF (12:45-1:35)
2:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. TR (4-5:15)

Wednesday, December 15

7:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. TR (10:35-11:50)
9:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. MWF (1:45-2:35)
12:45 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. MWF (10:45-11:35)
2:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. MWF (2:45-3:35)

Thursday, December 16

7:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. MWF (9:45-10:35)
9:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. MWF (3:45-4:35)
12:45 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. TR (1:10-2:25)

Saturday Classes

Examinations will be given at regular class time on December 11.

Evening Classes

Final examinations will be given at regular class time at regular class time beginning on Thursday, December 9, and ending on Wednesday, December 15. (Classes beginning at 4:30 p.m. or after are considered evening classes.)

TEST PREPARATION

- Prepare by reviewing notes, text and earlier tests.
- Don't stay up late studying. It is ineffectual.
- Ask yourself questions as you review.
- Approach exams with confidence.

TEST ANXIETY

A test-anxious student may do poorly on an exam even if he or she knows material better than a classmate who is able to control anxiety. The following tips were designed to help you control test anxiety.

- Think about why you become anxious.
 - Recognize that some thoughts are negative and self-defeating.
 - For each emotional, frightful thought, come up with a rational counter-thought.
- Use your imagination in a positive way.
 - Learn to imagine yourself remaining calm and in control.
- Learn to relax.
 - Loosening your clothing and get comfortable.
 - Tighten your muscles in your toes. Hold for a count of 10. Contract and relax other muscles.
 - Breathe deeply and slowly.

SOURCE: Counseling Center

■ **NOTE:** Final examinations will be given only at the time designated. If an examination needs to be changed from the scheduled time, prior approval by the appropriate college dean is required. Examinations for double period classes should be given at the time scheduled for the first hour the class meets.

SOURCE: Fall Class Catalog

—Ryan R. Henry/The Pan American

UTPA kicks off Christmas season with Noche de las Luces



—Angie Reyes/ The Pan American

Patricia Rangel won the Build-a-Snowman contest for the Anthropology Club.

A plethora of people could be found Friday in the Fine Arts Courtyard as the Alumni

Association hosted its seventh annual Noche de las Luces.

People of all ages were in the crowd as the university cross country team lit up the lights on the buildings and celebrated UTPA's tenth year in the UT system.

Through out the night there was singing from local elementary school students, and mariachis to help celebrate. Phyllis Hutchins, coordinator of alumni relations, said the event was an opportunity to get children familiar with our campus and let them know it is here for them.

"I'm here to see all the festivities, all the singing, all the little kids, and I brought my son for the fire works and the lighting," said senior Adam Cantu. "That's basically why I'm here, to spend some time with my son."

The event began with the ceremonial lighting of the lights on the buildings and trees around the perimeter of campus. Dr. Miguel Nevarez, president of UTPA, gave a speech in which he welcomed everyone and praised students and faculty for lifting the level of education at UTPA. Choirs from eight elementary schools sang Christmas songs to the crowd while other children were hitting pinatas filled



Miguel Liscano Jr.
Staff Writer
The Pan American

with candy. There was also free cake and punch for the crowd. According to Hutchins, this was the best turnout ever for the event.

After the choirs, Mariachi Los Coyotes of La Joya played to the crowd and lead them to the track field. Pyrotechnicians were brought in from New York to light up the sky with a fire works display that was described by Senior Noe Martinez as, "awesome," and "a great way to end the night." There was also a snow man building contest that Patricia Rangel, of the Anthropology Club won. Rangel was drenched in three cans of shaving cream to become an alien snowman and beat out the Beso Club to win \$50. About an hour before the festivities ended, Santa Claus showed up riding a Harley Davidson Motorcycle accompanied by female elves Mary Saenz, and Alinor Stephens.

"These children are going to remember that they came to the university, and it meant something to them when they were a child. They're going to remember that when they get older, and they're going to want to come back," said Phyllis Hutchins, coordinator of alumni relations. "We're hoping this will be the first time they step on this campus but it won't be the last."

Nevarez attributes the good turnout to the hard work put into the event, good advertising, and involving the children. He said the event was good for UTPA because it involved the community.



—Angie Reyes/ The Pan American

Mariachi Los Coyotes of La Joya were on hand to provide entertainment.



—Daniel Garcia Ordaz/ The Pan American

Many children participated in hitting pinatas.

Cheerleaders go national

UTPA's cheerleading squad is heading for a first in Bronc history by having the opportunity to compete in the national cheerleading semi-finals.



Yvette Solis
The Pan American

The semi-finals and finals are to be held January 6-7 in Orlando, Florida at the MGM Studios in Disneyworld.

Bronc cheerleaders were one of 28 schools to send a video of their work to the Universal Cheerleading Association in which they won fifth place. Other top 5 winners included the University of Virginia and the University of South Florida.

Bronc cheerleaders will be one of 15 universities to compete in the semifinals. According to their sponsor, they seem to have good prospects in placing in the top five in the semifinals and possibly have a shot at appearing on ESPN for the finals.

"The reason we have a good chance in placing in the top five is because we have so many local

Valley kids we can start to practice the day after the yearly cheerleading tryouts while other Universities have to wait up to two months to begin practice," said Charlie Caceres, coordinator for campus activities.

"We also have a great advantage due to the three minute routine we perform all over the Valley," said Marse Garcia, UTPA cheerleader.

The squad practices three times a week, Tuesday and Thursday from noon to 2 p.m. and Sundays from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. and any other time they can fit in practice time.

The squad plans to work from the three minute routine and cut it to two minutes and 20 seconds to meet the requirements for the national competition.

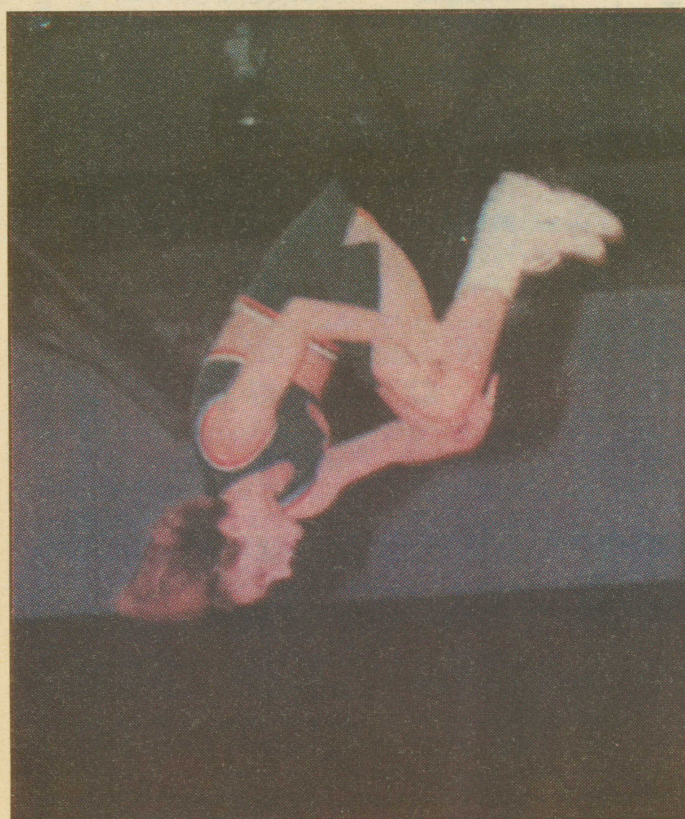
Though the prospects of a good placement in the finals seem good, the Bronc cheerleaders are facing financial problems. They must raise \$10,000 by the December 17 deadline in order to compete in the finals.

"That's the only thing that seems to stand in our way. We hope the administration will help us financially or get donations. Any kind of donation is welcome," said Caceres.



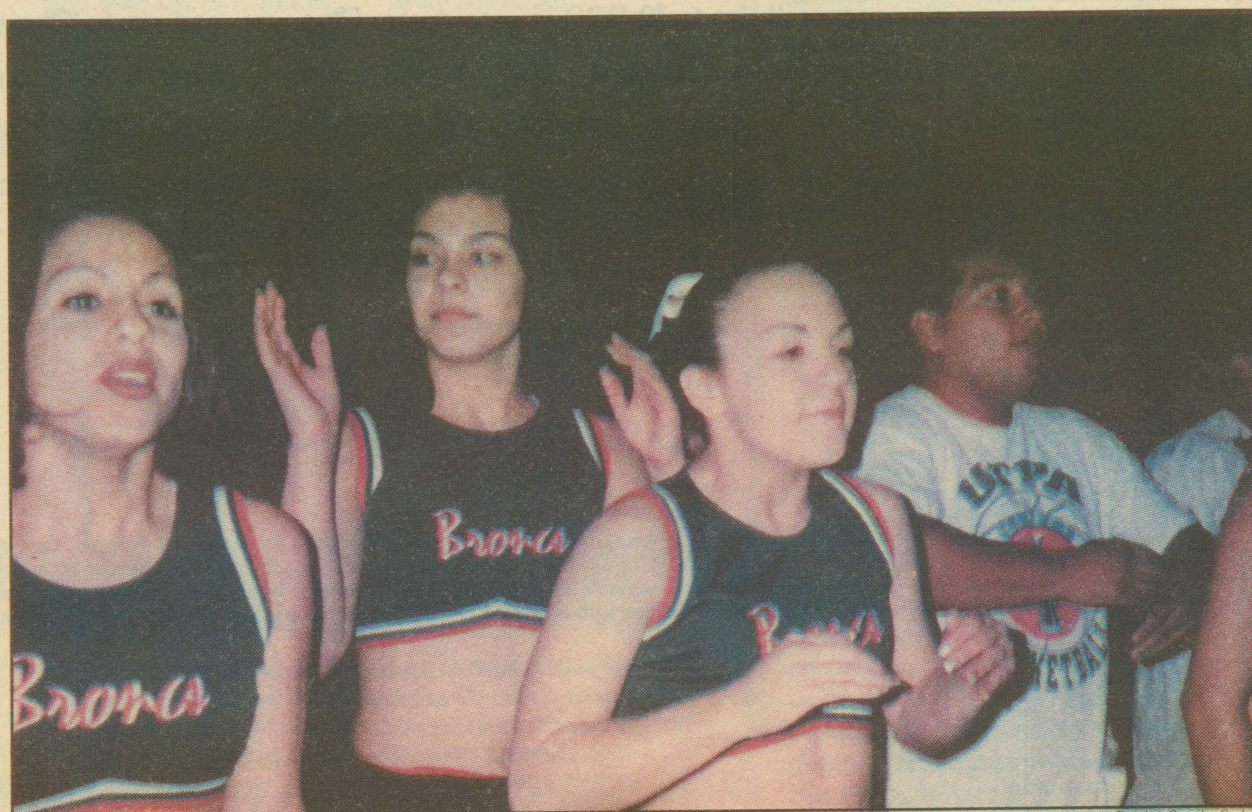
—Daniel Garcia Ordaz

Crystal Garza and Lisa Hernandez hold up fellow cheerleader Marisa Garcia during practice on Thursday.



—Special to The Pan American

Monica Salinas flips midair at the Fieldhouse.



—Daniel Garcia Ordaz

Marisa García, Mariella Yarritú, Monica Salinas and Jimmy Hernandez practice for semifinals. The group will travel to Orlando to compete in national competition.

Your college degree is already paying off.



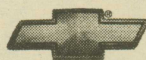
Requires appropriate weight-rated hitch. Refer to the Owner's Manual for additional towing information and advice before towing with Chevy Tracker.

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AAP continued from page 1

times per semester to inform students of their options. The program, which usually lasts 12 to 18 months, can take more or less time depending on the pace of the student. It requires a bachelors degree with a cumulative GPA of 2.5.

According to Gonzalez, the type of degree doesn't matter, however, it may limit one's options.

After the students do the required class work they go into the actual teaching phase where they are paid for their services.

"They'll be doing anything that a regular teacher does during that first year," said Gonzalez.

Since it is a state program, no one can be denied, however, generally, out of the initial 400 to 500 applicants, fewer than 200 actually follow through. The program, which has been at UTPA since 1986 and was originally founded to assist in meeting

“

I thought it was very informative and if you want to teach and don't want to go through all the four years it's a great program.

— A.D. Mack,
Hidalgo County prosecutor

”

the teacher shortage demand, has worked with over 1400 teachers. There is still a shortage in certain areas such as math and special education.

"I thought it was very informative and if you want to teach and don't want to go through all the four years it's a great program," said A.D. Mack, a prosecutor for Hidalgo County who attended the workshop after reading about it.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

The staff of THE PAN AMERICAN wish you safe and happy holidays. See you in the new millennium!

News Review

November 29 - December 6

From Wire Reports

MONDAY: Demonstrators close WTO opening in Seattle

SEATTLE—Thousands of demonstrators chanting anti-trade slogans shut down the opening ceremonies of the World Trade Organization meeting, prompting authorities to call in the National Guard and declare a curfew. Police in riot gear fired tear gas, pepper spray and concussion grenades in an effort to disperse aggressive protesters, whose window-smashing rampage cast a pall over the gathering of trade ministers from 135 countries. Police reported about 20 arrests, but otherwise the authorities decided to let the demonstrators control the streets.

TUESDAY: Bush outlines his tax-cut proposal

CHICAGO—Republican presidential contender George W. Bush sketched the outlines of a \$480 billion, five-year tax-cut proposal Tuesday that would scale back income tax rates for all Americans but emphasize relief for the middle class and those who live "on the outskirts of poverty." Bush's package would streamline tax rates and is more ambitious than a congressional Republican-backed tax plan that President Clinton vetoed this year.

WEDNESDAY: Mexican, U.S. officials work to retrieve bodies

MEXICO CITY—The presence of dozens of U.S. federal agents combing through four clandestine graves on Mexican soil represents a turning point in U.S.-Mexico cooperation. In the past, U.S. agents working in Mexico frequently have generated controversy, but this time, FBI forensic experts traveled to Ciudad Juarez at the request of the Mexican government to investigate graves that may hold more than 100 bodies, including some of Americans, killed by drug traffickers.

THURSDAY: Program reeling from Klan's participation

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.—Missouri's Adopt a Highway program brightens state roads, attracts thousands of volunteers and saves taxpayers up to \$2 million a year in maintenance fees. But this alliance of citizens and government is reeling because of its newest volunteer—the KKK. A federal judge ordered the state to allow the Klan to participate, triggering questions on whether the program should be scrapped. State Transportation Director Henry Hungerbeeler said the state would appeal the ruling to the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

FRIDAY: Drug kingpin's legacy lives on

DALLAS—Amado Carrillo Fuentes, a Mexican drug kingpin whose domain stretched for 200 miles along the Texas border, died in 1997, but drug enforcement officials believe his legacy lives on. Before his death Fuentes, who operated primarily from Ciudad Juarez across the Rio Grande from El Paso, tried to avoid the scrutiny of authorities by killing his enemies and burying their bodies. Authorities scoured four ranches outside Ciudad Juarez based on an informant's tip that drug traffickers buried at least 100 bodies on remote ranches in the area.

MONDAY: Teen wounds 4 in Oklahoma school shooting

FORT GIBSON, Okla.—An armed 13-year-old middle school boy wounded four of his classmates early Monday, and was subdued by a science teacher. None of the injuries were said to be life-threatening. Among the injured: two 13-year-old boys, and a boy and girl, both 12. A fifth student reportedly suffered bumps and bruises. The boy did not appear to be remorseful and had a blank look on his face, according to published reports. School officials cancelled class for all of the district's 1,850 students. There are about 450 students in the middle school.

Sports Calendar

December 7

Basketball



Women's vs. UT-San Antonio, Fieldhouse 7 p.m.

Notes: Alexandra Gravel leads the Lady Broncs with a .867 free throw percentage and 12.4 scoring average.

December 8

Basketball



Men's @ Illinois, Champaign, Illinois 7 p.m.

Notes: The Broncs are headed on a long road stretch, where they were 0-16 last year.

December 9

Basketball



Women's vs. Oral Roberts University, Fieldhouse 7 p.m.

Notes: Naima Williams has pitched in with 9.0 ppg and 6.6 rpg coming off the bench.

December 11

Basketball



Women's vs. Rice, Houston 2 p.m.

Notes: The Lady Broncs only meeting against the Owls this season.

December 15

Basketball



Men's vs. Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 7:05 p.m.

Notes: After this game, the Broncs will be looking forward to playing at home for the next five games.

Hokies celebrate Sugar Bowl confirmation

David Fairbank

Knight Ridder Newspapers

Second-ranked Virginia Tech will face No. 1 Florida State for the national title Jan. 4 in the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans, a matchup set by the final Bowl Championship Series standings released Sunday.

"It's a dream come true for everybody," Tech quarterback Michael Vick said. "Stepping up to the line on the first play and seeing that Florida State defense is something I never thought I'd have the opportunity to do."

The Hokies completed the first 11-0 season in school history and achieved the highest ranking in the program's history in the process. Tech will play for its first national championship in coach Frank Beamer's 13th season at his alma mater, an almost unthinkable achievement as recently as seven or eight years ago.

"You think about it, but I don't know if you seriously think about it," Beamer said. "You've got it down to the two top teams in the country, and you start out with 114 (teams) in preseason and now it's down to two. It's a great day. It's the greatest day in Virginia Tech's athletic history, I guess, to be invited to play for the national championship. I'm just proud to be a part of it."

When the Sears National Championship Trophy was flashed up on the big-screen TV, Hokies linebacker Jamel Smith jokingly said to no one in particular, "That's going back to my house."

Not exactly high drama, but more a reward for a season's accomplishments.

"When you have a program that's graduating athletes and they're doing well on the field, you can't help but be proud," said Paul Torgersen, the Hokies' outgoing president, who is stepping down after the bowl game. "What's interesting to me is that we seem to have become Virginia's team, more than just Virginia Tech's team. I'm proud of the fact that we're representing the state. I've had Wahoos come up to me and wish us well, and that's very gratifying."

Tech was a solid No. 2 in the final BCS standings behind Florida State. The Seminoles (11-0) finished with 2.24 points, Tech had 6.12 points, and third-place Nebraska (11-1) had 7.42 points.

The Cornhuskers trailed Tech by 1.54 points last week and had a slim mathematical chance of overtaking the Hokies, based on the result of Saturday's Big 12 Conference championship game. Nebraska defeated Texas 22-6 and made up 0.24 points on Tech in the final calculations.

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Week Fourteen

Eladio's Picks Record

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■ Percentage: .530 ■ Overall Percentage: .630



Eladio Jaimez
The Pan American



Oakland at Tennessee

The Titans will be looking to redeem themselves after their embarrassing loss to Baltimore. With the Raider's win over the Seahawks, the AFC Central is up for grabs.

Titans by 6



New England at Indianapolis

Bledsoe can't throw two or three interceptions in a game and expect to win. The Colts will take advantage of the turnovers if given the chance. The Colts are winners of eight straight.

Colts by 10



Cleveland at Cincinnati

The only thing these guys are playing for is to see who gets a better pick in the April draft. Oh yeah, and Ohio bragging rights as well.

Bengals by 7



Baltimore at Pittsburgh

The Ravens put up 41 points against the Titans, one of the better teams in the NFL. The Ravens may not score 41 for a while again, but will score enough to beat the Steelers.

Ravens by 13



NY Giants at Buffalo

The AFC East seems to be a two-team battle between the Colts and the Bills. The Bills will be well rested and ready for the Giants on Sunday.

Bills by 14



Philadelphia at Dallas

The Cowboys have to take advantage of turnovers if they want to win. All records and home field advantages go out the window when these two play.

Cowboys by 1



Arizona at Washington

With the return of the Jake the Snake, Arizona has won two in a row, and are back in the battle for the NFC East.

Cardinals by 3



Carolina at Green Bay

Carolina is a better team than their record indicates. Beating the Pack, in Lambeau, in December is as easy as finding a parking space at UTPA.

Packers by 7



St. Louis at New Orleans

Dick Vermeil is my choice for Coach of the Year. Why not Jim Mora? Because Vermeil had to deal with replacing his starting quarterback in the pre-season.

Rams by 21



Miami at NY Jets

Miami lost a last second heartbreaker to the Colts last week. Dan Marino is down to his last couple of seasons, and wants to win bad. The Jets need to find themselves a new quarterback.

Dolphins by 9



San Diego at Seattle

The Seahawks have lost two in a row and are losing ground in the AFC West. The Chargers' defense will be a problem for Seattle, but they'll still win on Sunday.

Seahawks by 7



Atlanta at San Francisco

The Dirty Birds will dance right by the Niners this weekend. SF will be doing something they haven't done since the early '80s. Looking towards the draft.

Falcons by 10



Detroit at Tampa Bay

Detroit is still hanging on to the NFC Central, but the Bucs and the Vikes are right behind them. This will be a key divisional match-up.

Bucs by 3



Minnesota at Kansas City

The Chiefs are still in the playoff hunt, and now the AFC West championship race as well. The Vikings are closing in on the Lions in the Central, but their high powered offense will fall in KC.

Chiefs by 3



Denver at Jacksonville

The Jags are dominating the NFL just like the Broncos were last year. This is turning into quite the rivalry. The Jags knocked Denver out of the playoffs in the first round in '97, and the Broncos did it to them last year. The Jaguars win this one.

Jaguars by 10

■ ■ ■

You can send your football comments to Eladio via e-mail at mamboking3@hotmail.com.

Bench production will be a factor in two game homestand

Eladio Jaimez

The Pan American

The Lady Broncos (1-5) will try to break a three-game losing skid tonight when they face The University of Texas San Antonio Lady Roadrunners at 7:00 p. m. in the Fieldhouse. The Lady Broncos' only win came against the Lady Roadrunners on November 24.

The Lady Broncos will have their hands full with Lady Roadrunner Keelah Wilson. In their previous game, Wilson scored 20 points and pulled down eight boards. The 6'2" center also had four blocks and one steal.

"We will definitely have to contain her (Wilson) tonight. We also have to play better defensively because they are more athletic, bigger and quicker. We also have to cut down their second shot opportunities and not let them go to the basket as much," said Lady Bronc Assistant Coach Rod Lee.

The Lady Broncos will also have to cut down on the personal fouls. The Lady Roadrunners went 20-of-28 from the foul line in their previous game.

Aside from their starting five, the Lady Broncos have taken advantage of a deep bench which includes four newcomers they can depend on.

In particular the play of freshmen forwards Michelle Smith and Lea Valdez were bright spots in the Lady Broncos three road losses.

In their loss to Texas A&M Smith scored a season high eight points and had three rebounds. Valdez scored seven and had a three point basket in only nine minutes of work.

In their loss to Grambling State, Valdez led the Lady Broncos with a season high 20 points, one blocked shot and five rebounds off the bench. Freshman forward Naima Williams

also has contributed to the Lady Broncos' effort. She had eight points against Grambling State and 14 in their lone win over UTSA.

"This is by far one of our strongest recruiting classes ever. They were brought here to give support to our starters and have progressed ahead of schedule. They come to the gym on their own and show great determination," said Lee.

The Lady Broncos will face Oral Roberts University at 7:00 p. m. on Thursday in the Fieldhouse to conclude their two-game homestand.

ORU brings a big team to UTPA that likes to run the floor. According to Lee, the Lady Golden Eagles will make adjustments and slow their game down.

"They're big. They have a couple of 6'4" kids and one 6'2". They're really patient and like to move the ball outside. They take advantage of their height," said Lee.

This will be the third time the Lady Broncos do battle with ORU under UTPA Head Coach Kathy Halligan's. The Lady Broncos lost the previous two.

Overall ORU leads the series 5-1.

After their two home dates, the Lady Broncos will travel to Houston to play Rice on December 11 and then Southwest Texas State on December 16 before playing a tournament in Mississippi State. The Lady Broncos then play a home date against the Lady Bobcats of Southwest Texas State University on December 22 and end the millennium on the road against Troy State University on December 30.

"This is the toughest part of our schedule. If we concentrate on our effort we should have control when we step on the floor. If everyone can give 100 percent we should close out '99 strong," said Lee.

Howard holds tennis tryouts

Eladio Jaimez

The Pan American

UTPA Tennis Head Coach Scott Howard will be looking to add depth to his women's tennis team by conducting open tryouts.

The tryouts are open to any female UTPA student who is academically eligible and has a completed physical.

A student must have a minimum GPA of 1.7 and must be enrolled in at least 12 hours.

Howard will be looking to add two or three women to the team. As of

now the team consists of five players.

"I'll hit with them, or feed them balls. If two show up at the same time I'll have them play each other. I won't worry about strength or conditioning yet," said Howard.

A specific date has not been set for the tryouts, but anyone interested should contact coach Howard before the Christmas break at 381-2223 and a tryout date will set up.

The tryouts will be held at the Orville Cox Tennis Courts on the UTPA campus.

Broncs look to break road game losing streak

The UTPA men's basketball team has added another loss to their NCAA record road losing streak.

The Broncs fell to the University of Alabama-Birmingham Blazers last Tuesday, giving them their 60th consecutive loss on the road.



Mireya Villarreal
The Pan American

Although Brian Merriweather only had 5 points at the end of the first half, he managed to score 17 points in the second. He finished with 21 points and two rebounds.

John Braxton scored 10 points and grabbed one rebound before he received a technical foul and was tossed from the game.

Sophomore, Kyle Sanders, obtained 14 points and led the team with seven rebounds.

Carlos Haywood chipped in eight points and two rebounds, while Gary Booker finished off

with nine points and five boards.

"I think we're just running through a tough part of the schedule. There are always things that we can do better as a coaching staff and me better as a coach to get us better prepared. And I think we'll continue to get better at those things. We've got to get the athletes' confidence back to a higher level than it is right now. I think by Monday night we'll be in a good position to feel better about ourselves," said Broncs Head Coach Bob Hoffman.

The team will be playing three road games before returning.

The Broncs played the University of Texas at El Paso Miners yesterday.

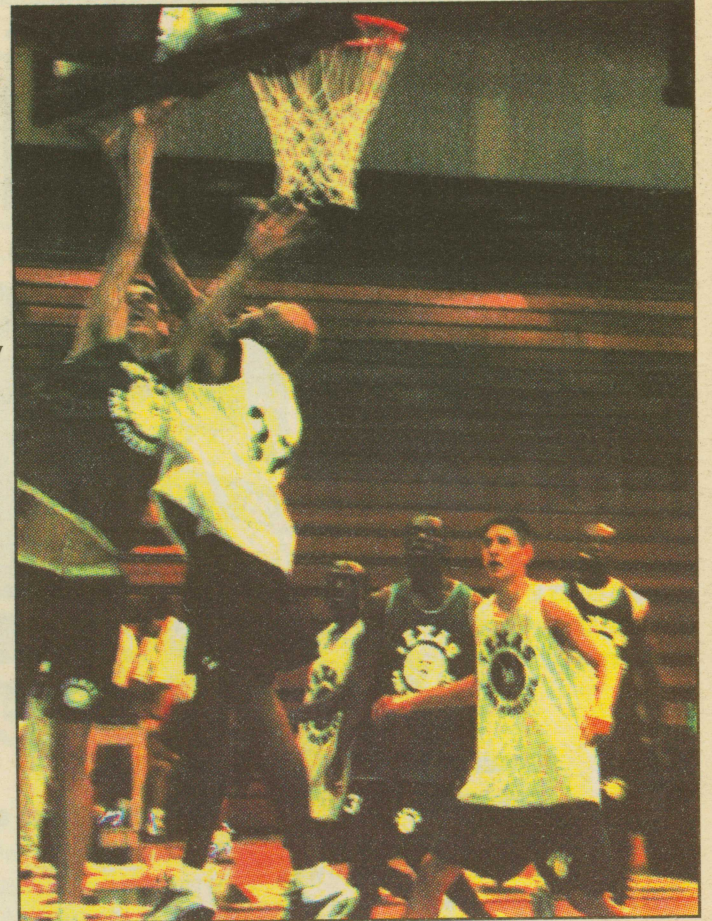
After this game, the team will travel to Urbana-Champaign, Illinois to take on the Fighting Illini tomorrow.

The last road game the Broncs will be playing is against the Arkansas Razorbacks on the December 15.

"I think this away game stretch could affect us if we let it. I'm looking at it as an opportunity to play three great teams, two of which are ranked pretty high. If we decide to go in their and play together, as one cohesive unit, then we're going to have fun. I think our attitude will definitely determine how we're going to do on these away games. These guys are here to play the game and play together and that's what will get us through," said Assistant Coach Clay Martin.

Last season, the Broncs went 0-16 in away games. Their last road win was a 58-54 victory over Lamar in the 1994-95 season. That season, the Broncs won five other road games.

After December 15, the Broncs will enjoy a six game homestand beginning on December 20 against the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. The game will take place at the UTPA Fieldhouse.



Mireya Villarreal/The Pan American

Machi Warner attempts to block Matt Palmquist's layup during practice Saturday at the fieldhouse.

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